

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, and 14. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

The Office has rejected claims 1-5, 8-11 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,076,369 to Ostapovitch (Ostapovitch), claims 6, 12 and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ostapovitch in view of US Patent No. 5,554,056 to Henricus op ten Berg (Henricus), and claims 7, 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ostapovitch in view of France Patent No. 2 512 283 to Borne et al. (Borne). The Office asserts that Ostapovitch discloses an electrical socket contact [10, figures 4-6] and a method of making/mating the socket contact with a pin contact [indicated in a full outline 20, figure 6]. The Office also asserts that Ostapovitch discloses an electrically conductive body [11] having a pin contact engaging bore and a body [11] with two guide portions [28, 28] which the Office asserts read on Applicants' at least two pin contact arc-shaped receiving elements extending into the bore, wherein the arc-shaped receiving elements are spaced apart across the bore and having a distance that is greater than a maximum transverse dimension of the pin contact [figures 4 and 6], and a plurality of spring contacts [25, 27] spaced in from the arc-shaped receiving elements along the bore. The Office acknowledges that does not disclose a latch spaced in from the spring contacts along the bore, but asserts that Henricus discloses a socket contact [2, figure 1] comprises a latch [16] spaced in from spring contacts [30] along a bore defined between the spring contacts. The Office also acknowledges that Ostapovitch does not disclose that the arc receiving elements are fixed, non-cantilevered, are receiving elements, but asserts that Borne discloses a socket contact [14, figure 6] comprises a closed loop, front body section having a plurality of bosses [26, figure 1] formed therein, the bosses are read on applicant's the arc receiving elements are fixed, non-cantilevered, are receiving elements.

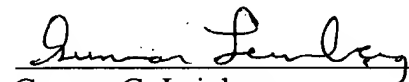
Ostapovitch, Henricus, and Borne, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, "a plurality of spring contacts spaced in and laterally offset from the arc receiving elements along the bore" as recited in claim 1, "providing a plurality of spring contacts in the body which extend into the bore, the spring contacts are spaced in and laterally offset from the pin contact arc receiving elements along the bore" as recited in claim 8, or "contacting at

least one spring contact in the bore in the body with the pin contact, the spring contact is spaced in and laterally offset from the pin contact arc receiving element along the axial bore” as recited in claim 14. The Office’s attention is respectfully directed to FIGS. 4 and 12 and to col. 2, lines 43-48 in Ostapovitch which illustrate and disclose that the beams 25 and remaining portions 28 are formed from the same portion of the surface of the box portion 11 and thus are in alignment with each other. Since the remaining portions 28 with the domed contact areas 27 are adjacent and in alignment with the beams 25 in Ostapovitch, as a pin terminal is inserted into the box portion 11 this alignment may result in a damaging arc between the pin contact and the domed contact areas 27. Similarly, neither Henricus nor Borne teach or suggest the invention as claimed. With the present invention, the arc receiving elements are spaced in and laterally offset from the spring contacts so that the arc receiving elements function as the sacrificial elements, thus avoiding any possible damage with the spring contacts as described in the first paragraph on page 3 of the above-identified patent application. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 8, and 14. Since claims 2-7 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 1, claims 9-13 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 8, and claims 15-17 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 14, they are distinguishable over the cited references and patentable in the same manner as claims 1, 8, and 14.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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